LIGHTHOUSE OF ONONDAGA COUNTY

Annual Report - 1967

Foreword:

For the Lighthouse, 1967 could be described as the year that this agency began the recrystallization of its role in the community. 1967 could also be described by us as "the year of the film." Or perhaps "the year of the "Conference". Or perhaps the year that saw the first steps in integrating blind people into generic community agencies. In retrospect, it was a year filled with exciting, and sometimes spectacular, moments. And, it was a year which saw the continued quiet growth of services to blind and visually handicapped people and their families. Despite the "hoopla" and "the splash" of the spectacular, it was the helping of the individual blind person to have a more satisfying life that perhaps has the greater meaning. Thus, as you read this report, don't evaluate our progress by the statistics, the glamorous programs, but rather by what all this means to the life of the blind person.

I. Staff During 1967, the agency staffing remained stable. All positions on our table of organization were filled. The table of organization continued as follows:

Executive Director	Milton Rosenblum
Casework Supervisor	Janice Pope
Groupwork Supervisor (3/5 time)	Charlotte Mallov
Case Worker	Rosalie Young
Social Work Aide	Carolyn Donlon
Social Work Aide	Marilyn Porter
Secretary	Lillian Malo
Receptionist	Dorothea Silliman
Maintenance and cleaning (3/4 time)	Alberta Korkala

In addition, we also had:

Social Work Students (two days per week)	Onalee Johnson (through May, 1967)
	Robert Maxwell " " "
	Fred Frady (from Oct., 1967)
Social Work Aide (summer - 10 weeks)	Barbara Boff

There were changes in some staff assignments. These will be described in the sections relating to service areas.

II. The Services

A. Case Work Case work continues to be the major focus of agency activity. in 1967, case work represented 63.5 % of staff time and budget, based on a nine month figure utilizing the new functional budgeting system.

In 1966, 323 different blind people were seen in case work services.

In 1967, this number rose to 363. Of this number, 104 were carried over from 1966, 142 were people previously known to the agency, and 117 were new clients.

RECEIVED
1968
M. M.

The number of casework contacts with other agencies, relating to our clients, had increased markedly. In 1966, only 14 % of all referrals came from community agencies (excluding the State Commission for the Blind). In 1967, this category became the largest group of referrals, or 24% of total referrals! We think that there is significance in this growth. We feel that this is a reflection of a new position we are taking in the community of agencies. We feel that this has also resulted from improved contacts with other agencies, in terms of greater participation by all staff in a variety of community organizations, the development of innovative programs that have reached towards generic community agencies, and the process of multi-agency involvement in our Golden Jubilee Conference.

Evaluating "productivity" in social work is a difficult process. It is a simple task to demonstrate, through statistics, quantity of work. But statistics can never truly indicate in this field, quality of work. For instance, in case work, our staff had a total of 1155 face-to-face interviews with clients during 1967. (This does not include the 547 telephone interviews with clients, which are an essential part of our case work service.) There were 291 face-to-face interviews with families of clients (and an additional 540 by telephone). There were 278 meetings with other community agencies (and an additional 590 contacts by telephone). These figures can only demonstrate output, but not effectiveness.

In a sense, this is the least publicized service of the agency. The very nature of the problems with which the case worker copes precludes publicity. The case worker deals in the intangible - the personal - the private. A case worker helps a mother see some new strengths, some new potentials, in her blind child. A case worker helps an aged blind person move to a new living arrangement which will provide greater security and a fuller life. A case worker helps a blind man to use the appropriate resources in the community so that he can get job training and employment. The case worker at the Lighthouse helps individuals and families in a lot of big ways and a lot of little ways.

B. Group Work

In 1967, group work services represented 27.9 % of staff time and budget, based on a nine month figure utilizing the new functional budgeting figure. Some major staffing and program changes took place during and after the summer. Mrs. Young, who had previously been providing case work services as a member of the professional staff, moved with dramatic effectiveness into our special project of integrating blind children into the Bishop Foery Day Camp program of the Catholic Youth Organization. There, Mrs. Young functioned as a full time camp unit leader for nine weeks. She demonstrated such skills that the decision was made that she should assume responsibility for one day/week of our two day/week group work program for older adults. (This program runs from October through May.) This move relieved Mrs. Mallov of responsibility for one day of program. Therefore, Mrs. Young's caseload was somewhat reduced, while Mrs. Mallov's caseload was increased proportionately. Mrs. Mallov continues to have responsibility for the total program, while Mrs. Donlon continues to supervise the arts and crafts aspect of this program.

1. Older adults Registration remained fairly constant in 1967 (registered 22), as did attendance. However, the composition of the group changed somewhat as new people entered and others withdrew (primarily because of illness).

In October, the program was restructured as follows:

	Tuesday		Thursday (previously, this was the same as Tuesday)		
A.M.	Arts & Crafts	(group A)	A.M.	Social group	(all)
	Social Group	(group B)			

	Tuesday		Thursday		
P.M.	Arts & Crafts	(group B)	P.M.	Arts & Crafts	(all)
	Social Group	(group A)			

This shift on Thursdays enabled the group to plan and act as a unit. It facilitated group planning of trips, forums and parties.

Another change in program took place during the summer. For the first time, there were six weeks of summer program during June and July. Through the fine cooperation of Commissioner James Heath and the Department of Parks and Recreation, we obtained permission to utilize the facilities of Elmwood Park for this program. The reaction of the group members to this idea at first were negative. However, by the end of the program, their comments were highly enthusiastic. "This is the best summer I've had in years." "I don't remember enjoying myself so much." Further proof of the groups' enthusiasm for the summer program occurred about the fourth week of summer activities. It was raining, and, according to our planning with the group members, the limousine service brought the people to the Lighthouse. Instead of coming inside, the people in the limousine sent in a "delegate" who stated that the group had voted to go to Elmwood Park, anyway. (There is a covered, open pavilion for shelter.) And so they went, rain or shine.

Some special equipment was purchased for this program, such as a croquet set, a horseshoe pitching set (metal) and, most important, 16 folding aluminum outdoor chairs.

Group members grew in theirfeelings of security in planning their own programs. They also grew more secure in their role in the agency. This was dramatically demonstrated when members were able to openly criticise the Executive Director (warranted criticism) to a member of the staff. In the past, this kind of criticism only took place between group members in the limousine, over the telephone, or at meetings of the Empire State Association of the Blind (an organized association of blind people which meets outside of the Lighthouse). (The criticism was discussed at an open meeting with the group and Executive Director, and more positive and direct lines of communication were opened between the Director and the group.)

Group members participated in the programs of other agencies more this year than ever before. In fact, at the last such program at the Pioneer Club of the Salvation Army, a twelve day trip to Florida was announced. Two of our members are giving serious thought to joining this trip!

Transportation continues to be primarily provided by a hired limousine service, augmented by volunteers and the Red Cross. A transportation fee was initiated early in the year. Income amounts to about 10% of total transportation costs.

2. Children's Program An Integrated Camping Experience.

A full report of this program has been written by Mrs. Young of our staff and can be obtained by contacting the Lighthouse. (This program was highly successful, and in order to fully understand its operation, Mrs. Young's report should be read.)

III. Community Education Blindness, per se, is a multiple handicap. Not only is there diminution or total loss of man's major sense, sight, but there are other losses almost equally severe. Prime among these is the social loss experienced by blind people. The person who becomes blind is generally isolated from the mainstream of life. Not only must the blind person cope with his own feelings, but he has to cope with all the fears, pity, awkwardness, stereotypes and prejudices focused on him by the community. It is the unusual blind person who can, without help, handle and contend with, the attitudes of the sighted world without reacting with anger or passivity.

We see community education as prime responsibility of this agency. We have a role to play in helping the community and blind people break down the walls of stereotype and myth that have been built between them. 1967 saw the development of three tools in community education by the Lighthouse.

A. Newsletter First issued in October, 1966, with an additional four newsletters mailed since then. The agency's mailing list which consists of heads of agencies, community leaders and people interested in the Lighthouse has grown from 329 to 606.

B. Golden Jubilee Conference On November 1, 1967, the Lighthouse held its first professional conference, "A Community Responsibility - The Special Client". Some 151 persons representing 49 public and private agencies and educational institutions attended this one day conference at the Country House. (A copy of the conference program can be found at the end of the Annual Report.) There was one change in the program. (Miss Marian Wurster, Director of Program Services for the American Foundation for the Blind, replaced Harold Roberts as Conference Summarizer.) The conference, with the broad base of community support from the co-sponsors and the groups represented by the discussion leaders, was able to reach broad sections of the community. Much of the credit for the success of the conference must be given to its chairman, Dr. H. Kenneth Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of Social Work at the Syracuse University School of Social Work.

Dr. Fitzgerald is now editing the presentations of the three speakers. These will be published, along with a conference report, in early Spring, '68.

C. Film In 1967, the Lighthouse produced a major film entitled "Insight" designed to educate the sighted community to the problems of blind people. It is a 28 minute, 16 mm, color, sound film, which can be used anywhere in the country. In addition, for local use, there is an additional 3 minutes of film added to the very end, featuring this agency and its Executive Director. Plans are now in discussion for national distribution of the film.

Responses from people who have already seen the film are most positive. Apparently it is a unique film and one that has been badly needed.

D. Other Activities We continue to be called on to speak to groups in the community. These included groups of nurses, fraternal organizations, students and senior citizen groups.

IV. Prevention of Blindness While this is a new area of service for this agency, it is an area in which we should have been involved for many years. The primary responsibilities for programs in the field of prevention of blindness are rightfully under the aegis of the County Department of Health, the medical profession and appropriate voluntary groups, such as the Central New York Eye Bank. Yet we, as the primary private agency serving the blind people of this county, do have the responsibility of offering these organizations whatever services we can provide to enhance their work.

With the help and cooperation of the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, and the County Department of Health, we have begun to participate in the Pre-School Vision Testing Program of the Department of Health. The Executive Director of the Lighthouse has joined the Advisory Board of the Program, and Mrs. Donlon, of our staff, has become coordinator for the program.

We are also beginning to examine Glaucoma Screening to determine if we can be helpful in this area as well.

V. Library During 1967, under the direction of two volunteer librarians, we began to develop a professional library for use by professional and lay people in the community. All of the materials in the possession of the agency were brought together and catalogued. New pamphlets, periodicals and books are being added.

VI. Talking Book Machines In 1967, fifty-one new people received talking book machines distributed by this agency, bringing the total number in use in the county to 236. A major job was accomplished by staff, volunteer drivers and the Telephone Pioneer volunteers by bringing in all the machines in use in order to convert them to play the additional speed of 8 1/3 r.p.m.

VII. Volunteers While the number of volunteers at the disposal of the agency increased slightly, the demand for their services far exceeded the "supply" in certain areas. The great need for volunteer drivers, shopping assistants, "friendly visitors" and craft assistants still exists. We have generally been able to meet requests for volunteer readers, particularly for students.

VIII. A Look Into 1968 As this report is being completed, 1968 begins to take form. The economic crisis precipitated by the failure of the United Fund Campaign will cause us to tighten our belts, but, we hope, without curtailing services. As I write this, our case work supervision position is vacant and it is anticipated that the social case worker's position will soon be opened as maternity takes its natural toll of working women. Also, as I write this, our case work intake has been closed. While it is anticipated that it will be opened again shortly, it is also anticipated that it will be closed again several more times in 1968, unless we can fill open positions. While this is the gloomy part of the picture for 1968, it is really part and parcel of agency life.

The other side of the coin is bright. There has been some support rallied for the agency from our friends in the Lions Clubs. One Lions Club has given us a

donation which enabled us to provide matching funds for a Mental Health Grant to obtain the services of a Psychiatric Consultant for 1968. We are moving steadily ahead with our program of community education, utilizing our film as the primary tool. A Speakers Bureau is being organized. We have been presented with six tape recorders by the Italian War Veterans, and are now in the process of working out a cooperative program with the Onondaga Braillist Organization to set up an extensive taping program for the blind people of the county. Our Long Range Planning Committee has begun to look at the future development of the agency and has already made some proposals which we are beginning to implement.

Thus, it appears that 1968 will be a year with some severe problems for this agency, particularly in staffing and budgeting. It also appears that there will be marked forward movement in areas such as community education, prevention of blindness, innovative program and services (which do not involve Chest allocated funds) and Long Range Planning.

Finally, we shall continue to become a more integral part of the community of agencies. And we shall continue to be an advocate and the intercessor for those blind and visually handicapped people who ask our help.

Respectfully submitted,

Milton Rosenblum

Milton Rosenblum
Executive Director

Lighthouse of Onondaga County

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425 James St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203 – Phone 471-9170
Milton Rosenblum, ACSW, Executive Director

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman – H. Kenneth Fitzgerald, DSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse Univ.

– Community members:

Frank Kelley, Chairman, Planning Department, United Community Chest and Council of Onondaga County
Donald Lawitts, President, Central New York Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
Marie Morrison, Regional Consultant, American Foundation for the Blind
Richard H. Schlesinger, Executive Director, Community Health, Information and Planning Service (CHIPS)
Allen Speiser, Ph.D., President, Central New York Chapter, National Rehabilitation Assoc.
Oliver Swift, Regional Consultant, New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

– Lighthouse members:

Fred O. Bailer, President, Board of Directors
Amelia Greiner, member of the Board
Lynn Ann Pastushan, member of the Board
Marvin A. Rapp, Ph.D., member of the Board
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director

Resource People

H. Kenneth Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Syracuse University School of Social Work
Irving M. Friedman, Secretary, Governor's Committee on Employing the Handicapped
Morris Karmel, Supervisor of Community Service, New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
Marie Morrison, Field Consultant, American Foundation for the Blind
Harold G. Roberts, Associate Director for Service, American Foundation for the Blind
Milton Rosenblum, Executive Director, Lighthouse of Onondaga County
Oliver Swift, Community Consultant, New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped

THE LIGHTHOUSE PRESENTS ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION 1917 – 1967

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"A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY: – THE SPECIAL CLIENT"

sponsored by –
The Lighthouse of Onondaga County
(Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind)

co-sponsors –
American Foundation for the Blind
Community Health, Information and Planning Service (CHIPS)
National Association of Social Workers – Central N.Y. Chapter
National Rehabilitation Association – Central N.Y. Chapter
New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
School of Social Work – Syracuse University
United Community Chest and Council of Onondaga County

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1967

The Country House
(Exit 36 off the N.Y.S. Thruway, off Route #81)

William Gellman, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Jewish Vocational Service, Chicago, Illinois; Director, Easter Seal Research Foundation of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Chicago; Professor, Southern Illinois University; Fellow, American Psychological Association; Vice-chairman, Board of Vocational Education and Rehabilitation, State of Illinois; holds numerous other positions; and is the recipient of many awards and citations.

Eugene Taylor, LL.D., D.H.L.

Associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University School of Medicine; Editorial staff, THE NEW YORK TIMES; Vice-chairman, Governor's Council on Rehabilitation: Member, National Advisory Council of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Has received many national and international awards and honors.

Harold G. Roberts

Associate Director for Services, American Foundation for the Blind, New York, N.Y.; formerly Director of the Division of Community Services, American Foundation for the Blind; Member, Field Staff Committee of the National Social Welfare Assembly; Member, National Association of Social Workers, National Rehabilitation Association, International Conference of Social Work; Lecturer in Community Organization at Rutgers University School of Social Work.

Discussion Leaders –

Harvey Charles, Ph.D., Vice President, Onondaga Community College
S. J. Ciciarelli, Manager, Individual Services, Manufacturers Association of Syracuse
Rev. Charles J. Fahey, Director, Catholic Charities
Ruth Anne Funk, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mental Health Association of Onondaga County
Ernest Goglia, Executive Director, Child and Family Service
Mrs. Alexander Holstein, Jr., member, State Board of Social Welfare Service
Miss Betty G. Riley, Asst. to the Director, School of Special Education, Syracuse University
Rev. Frank Sammons, Diocesan Youth Director, Catholic Youth Organization
Richard Schlesinger, Exec. Director, Community Health, Information & Planning Services (CHIPS)
Allen Speiser, Ph.D., Executive Director, Consolidated Industries of Greater Syracuse

– PROGRAM –

8:30– 9:15	Registration and coffee
9:15–10:15	Welcome – Fred O. Bailer, President of the Lighthouse Board of Directors
	Keynote address – William Gellman, Ph.D., Executive Director, Jewish Vocational Service, Chicago
10:30–11:45	Discussion Groups
12:15– 1:45	Luncheon, Fred O. Bailer, presiding Speaker – Eugene J. Taylor, LL.D., D.H.L. Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University School of Medicine
2:00– 3:15	Discussion Groups
3:30– 4:00	Lighthouse Film Premier
4:00– 4:30	Summary – Harold G. Roberts

– RESERVATION –

LIGHTHOUSE GOLDEN JUBILEE CONFERENCE "A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY – THE SPECIAL CLIENT"

On Wednesday, November 1, 1967 – 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. – at the Country House

Name _____ Agency (or firm) _____

Address _____ Position _____

Telephone _____

Conference Registration Fee: Pre-registration – $5.50, At the door – $7.50

☐ Check enclosed. Please note: Conference attendance must be limited to 200 participants. If you wish to insure your participation, it is urged that you return your paid registration before October 20, 1967.

Please make your check payable to THE LIGHTHOUSE and mail it with this registration form to:
The Lighthouse, 425 James St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203

STATISTICS - CASE WORK

New or reactivated clients - (known ages) 247 cases

21% under 20
11% 20 - 44 +
68% over 45
100%

45% - 65 years +
23% 45 - 64+

4% of total - unknown

Degree of Vision - (at intake)

Total	21%
Light	22%
Partial	42%
Not legally blind	7%
Unknown	8%
	100%

STATISTICS - GROUP WORK

Regular Oct. through May program (Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, Oct., Nov., Dec.)

76 program days

	Attendance	Meetings	Average attendance
Social groups	981	118	8.3
Arts & Crafts	935	122	7.7

HIGHLIGHTS

January

Charm course (3 meetings)
Fashion Show
Visit to WSYR

February

Syracuse China
Easter Seals (volunteer stuffing)
Planning Committee meetings
(children's camp recruitment begins)

March

Special Children's Easter Program
(2 days) 6 children -- CYO and Air Force
Base, swimming, weather station

April

Senior Citizens Meeting with Representative Hanley (16)
3 Planning Committee Meetings (9)
Ceramics Classes at H. Meltzer's (3 classes) (11)

May

Senior Citizens Gala (11)
Salvation Army Luncheon (14)
End of Season Party (19)

STATISTICS - GROUP WORK (continued)

June & July		SUMMER PROGRAM AT ELMWOOD PARK (6 weeks) all day - 2 days/week 11 meetings - 158 attendances -- average attendance 14.4	
		CHILDREN"S PROGRAM AT CYO - Bishop Foery Day Camp 10 children for 40 camper-weeks	
August		No program	
September		Registration for fall	(21)
October		Planning Committee Meetings	
November	2	Planning Committee Meetings	(8)
		Salvation Army (all day)	(17)
	2	Wagon Wheel (cancer dressings)	(5)
		Thanksgiving party	(18)
December	3	Committee Meetings	
		Wagon Wheel (all day)	(1) Sewing Cancer Dressings
		Salvation Army (all day)	(1)
		Salvation Army New Year's party	(13)